The amendments add no new matter.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version of Amended Claims Marked to Show Changes:

1. (Three times amended) A method for detecting [covalent modification of a polypeptide by analyzing a sample for], in a sample, the presence of a modifying enzyme which covalently modifies a polypeptide, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a polypeptide pair comprising a first polypeptide and a binding partner polypeptide capable of associating, wherein the association of the polypeptides is detectable, and covalent modification of at least one of the polypeptides results in modulation of the association and is required for said association of said first polypeptide and said binding partner polypeptide;

b) immobilizing the first polypeptide to a physical support;

c) contacting the immobilized polypeptide with the second polypeptide;

d) contacting said immobilized polypeptide and said binding partner polypeptide with said sample; and

e) assaying the modification of at least one of the polypeptides by measuring the association of the binding partner polypeptide to the first polypeptide.

21. (New) A method for detecting, in a sample, the presence of a modifying enzyme which covalently modifies a first polypeptide, the method of comprising the steps of:

a) providing a first polypeptide immobilized on a support, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a binding site to which a second polypeptide specifically binds, and wherein covalent modification of said first polypeptide detectably changes the association of said first and second polypeptide;

b) providing said second polypeptide and said test sample;

c) measuring association of said first polypeptide with said second polypeptide; and

d) comparing said association with the association of a first and second polypeptide contacted with a control sample known to contain said modifying enzyme wherein a change in the association of said first and second polypeptide determined in step (c) relative to said

association determined in step (d) provides an indicator of the presence of the enzyme in said test sample.